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**PART--I-- Orders and Notifications by the Government of Tripura,
The High Court, Government Treasury etc.**

**GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

No.F.7(91)/For/FP-2019/32178-351

Dated, Agartala, the 5th November, 2020.

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 41 read with clause (d) of Section 76 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the State Government is pleased to make the following Rules as the Tripura Forest (Establishment & Regulation of Depots) Rules, 2020.

1. Short title and Commencement:

- (i) These rules may be called The Tripura Forest (Establishment & Regulation of Depots) Rules, 2020.
- (ii) They shall come into force on and from the date of publication in the Gazette of Tripura.

2. Definition- In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires –

- (i) "Act" means the Indian Forest Act 1927.
 - (ii) "Chief Conservator of Forests (Territorial)" means Chief Conservator of Forests incharge of territorial functions.
 - (iii) "Depot" means an area of land, a site with clearly defined boundaries, where timber or other forest produce, tools and equipment including carts, vehicles, cattles, etc seized under the Act and departmentally extracted timber are stored for the purpose of inspection, checking, transportation, conversion and/or sale as notified as per this rule.
 - (iv) "District Forest Officer" (DFO) means a forest officer as defined in Section 2(2) of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and is an Officer-in-Charge of a Forest District.
 - (v) "Firewood" means a piece of wood which is hollow, crooked and has other defects and not more than 1.82 meter in length, and which will not be suitable for sawing and cannot be used as timber irrespective of the species of the tree.
 - (vi) "Forest Produce" as defined in Section 2(4) of Indian Forest Act, 1927
 - (vii) "Officer-in-Charge" means Forester, a Beat Officer or any other officer of the Forest Department, posted as the Officer-in-Charge of the Depot.
 - (viii) "Permanent Timber Depot" means a timber depot notified by DFO with prior written approval from PCCF & HoFF, for more than two years.
 - (ix) "Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force" (PCCF & HoFF) means the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of the Forest Department of Government of Tripura.
 - (x) "Range Officer" means a Forest Officer as defined in Section 2(2) of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and holding the charge of a territorial Forest Range.
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- (xi) "Sub-Divisional Forest Officer"(SDFO) means a Forest Officer as defined in the Section 2(2) of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and posted as an Officer-in-Charge of a Forest Sub-Division.
- (xii) "Temporary Timber depot" means timber depot notified by DFO against the proposal of SDFO for a period not more than 2 years
- (xiii) "Timber" as defined in Section 2(6) of Indian Forest Act, 1927
- (xiv) "Wildlife Warden"(WLW) means a person appointed as such under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 4 of Wild life protection Act 1972 and also a Forest Officer as defined in the section 2(2) of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and posted as an Officer-in-Charge of a Wildlife Sanctuary.

3. Establishment of timber depots

- (a) The SDFO/WLW shall make an enquiry as he may think fit and shall submit the proposal for establishment of the permanent depot in his sub-division to District Forest Officer.
- (b) The District Forest Officer (DFO) shall establish and notify at least one Depot in each Forest Sub-Division at a place well connected by road, waterway, or rail, preferably near urban centers/District/Sub-division Headquarters, with prior approval of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Tripura
- (c) The DFO may increase the number of such Depots in the District, as per requirement, with the prior approval of PCCF & HoFF.
- (d) There shall be an Officer-in-Charge of the depot notified by SDFO/WLW and he/ she shall not be below the rank of a Forester. He/ she shall maintain the Registers on day-to-day basis of all articles to be stored in the depot in Form I, II& III appended to these Rules.
- (e) The depot shall be fenced with distinct boundaries on all sides and shall have only one gate for entry and exit where the exit & entry register shall be maintained by Officer-in-Charge of the depot. On receipt of any timber to the depot, it should be measured and the details entered in the register along with date and time.
- (f) Transportation of all forest produce to and from the depot shall be governed by the rules on transit, etc., in force. The Officer-in-Charge of the depot shall issue such pass as and when required and shall file monthly returns on sale and stock of articles in the depot to the Range Officer of the Range in which the depot is established.
- (g) The Officer-in-Charge of the depot shall cause guarding the Depot for the day and night throughout the year so that there is no pilferage or loss from the depot. SDFO/WLW and Range Officer shall provide necessary assistance to Officer-in-Charge for guarding the depot.
- (h) The Range Officer shall conduct physical inspection of the depot in his jurisdiction once in every six months. The report prepared after inspection shall be forwarded to the SDFO/WLW detailing the condition of the forest produces.
- (i) DFO may establish and notify the temporary depot for a period not exceeding two years preferably in well fenced Range/ Beat Office complexes based on the detailed proposal received from SDFO/WLW, in addition to the Depot notified. Officer-in-charge, Range

Officer and SDFO/WLW shall perform all activities of timber handling and sale, similar to the permanent timber depot.

4. Measurement of timber in the depot.

- (a) The measurement of forest produce, including timber, made at the time of arrival at the depot shall be final.
- (b) The depot measurement shall be used for all sale of forest produce.

5. Classification of timber species: Timber species are classified based on the durability and perishability as detailed in Table 1 of Annexure-A.

6. Making of lots in the depot

- (a) The lots should be done class wise and size of lots may be multiple of 4 cubic meter and above.
- (b) There should be sufficient space between each lot and the numbering of lots should be clear.
- (c) The officer In-charge of depot should complete the lot making and the abstract of lots along with measurement should be sent to SDFO/WLW within ten days from the receipt of sufficient quantity to make lots as mentioned in rule 6(a).

7. Sale of timber in the Depot

- (1) Every SDFO/WLW in whose jurisdiction a Depot exists, shall make efforts for expeditious disposal of the timber stored in the Depot. Sale of timber in any depot should be as per the government notified sale price as reserve price/offset price for e-Auction/open Auction/Tender. No Timber and forest produce shall be sold by any method other than the following:-
 - (a) **Sale by e-auction:** SDFO/WLW should initiate the process of e-Auction as per standard procedure of State Government and as per guidelines provided in <https://eauction.gov.in> within 15 days from the receipt of abstract of lots from Officer In-charge of Depot.
 - (b) **Sale by Auction or Tender or Tender-cum-auction:** In case no response is received in three consecutive e-Auctions, SDFO/WLW shall sell the timber through physical Auction/Tender/ Tender cum Auction. Detailed guidelines shall be notified separately by the Forest Department.
 - (c) **Retail Sale for bona fide personal use and Government Use:** The sale of timber for personnel use and government use shall be as per the existing forest departmental standing instructions.
- (2) The power of acceptance of rate/ execution of contract for sale of forest produce, including timber, shall be as per DFPRT.
- (3) Power of authorities to accept the tender/bid price which is lower than reserve prices given in Table 2 of Annexure-A, for which reasoned order should be given by the authority concerned, which shall only be on the grounds of quality deterioration due to length of storage time to be specified from records. This provision shall be applicable for un-disposed

timber in the depot only after 3 consecutive auctions within one year of receipt of abstract of lots by SDFO.

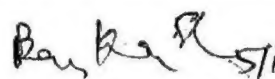
8. Conversion to fire wood and write off

- (i) The timber of class I, II & III species not sold within 10 years, 6 years and 4 years respectively from the date receipt of abstract of lots by SDFO shall be sold as firewood.
- (ii) The firewood and other forest produce in the depot may be sold in any method mentioned in rule 7.
- (iii) Any write off of timber/firewood in the depot shall be done as per DFPRT.

9. Repeal and saving

- (i) The Tripura Forest (Establishment & Regulation of Depots) Rules, 2006 are hereby repealed.
- (ii) Notwithstanding such repeal, any action taken, or any Notification or Order issued under the rule so repealed, shall be deemed to have been taken or issued under the corresponding provision of these Rules. All depots notified under the rule so repealed shall be deemed to have been notified under these rules; and there is no need to notify these separately.

By order of the Governor,



(Barun Kumar Sahu)

Principal Secretary to the
Government of Tripura

Annexure-A

Table 1: Timber species classified based on their decay characteristics, durability and perishability of timber

Sl. No.	Class	Species with scientific name
1	Class I	Teak (<i>Tectona grandis</i>), Mahogany (<i>Swietenia spp.</i>), Sal (<i>Shorea robusta</i>), Nageshwar (<i>Mesua ferrea</i>), Sundi, Champa (<i>Micheliachampaca</i>), Gandhroi, Gamar (<i>Gmelina arborea</i>), Karai (<i>Albizia procera</i>), Garjan (<i>Dipterocarpus terbinatus</i>), Kadam (<i>Anthocephalus cadamba</i>), Jarul (<i>Lagerstromia speciosa</i>).
2	Class II	Agar (<i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i>), Jam (<i>Syzygium cumini</i>), Kanjikara (<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>), Awal, Sidha, Chikrassi (<i>Chukrasia velutina</i>), Simul (<i>Bombax ceiba</i>), Moroi, Kailody, Sonai, Kaimala, Kathal (<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>), Chamal (<i>Artocarpus chaplasi</i>), Kanak (<i>Schima wallichii</i>), Ramdala (<i>Dubanga grandiflora</i>), Toon (<i>Toona ciliata</i>), Poma/ Rata/ Rangi, Bohera (<i>Terminalia bellirica</i>), Hargaja, Neur, Kharchani, Kumira (<i>Careya arborea</i>), Akasmoni (<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>), Katakoi, Bankadam (<i>Neolamarckia cadamba</i>), Harish, Udal (<i>Sterculia villosa</i>), Chatian (<i>Alstonia scholaris</i>).
3	Class III	All other trees which are neither included in class I nor in class II.

Table 2: Power of authorities to accept the tender/bid price which is lower than reserve price

	Class of timber	Class I			Class II			Class III	
	Age of timber	More than 1 year upto 2 years	More than 2 upto 4 years	More than 4 years	More than 1 year upto 2 years	More than 2 upto 4 years	More than 4 years	More than 1 year upto 2 years	More than 2 upto 4 years
1	SDFO	0	0	0	0	0	5 %	0	5%
2	DFO	Upto 3%	10 %	15 %	5 %	15 %	20 %	10%	25%
3	CCF Territorial	Upto 5%	15 %	20 %	10 %	20 %	30%	20%	30%
4	PCCF & HoFF	Upto 10%	20 %	30 %	20 %	30 %	50%	30%	50%
5	State Government	Full Power							